

THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET CHRONICLE

Week of January 18, 2011

Vol. 30, Issue 17

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WE ARE **ONLINE**

pucchronicle.com

Students Unable to See Professor Evaluations

Marissa O'Donley
Staff Writer

At the end of each term, most students fill out in an evaluation on the effectiveness of their professor's teaching. These evaluations allow students to share feedback that could aid the professor in improving their class.

This information could also be useful to students. However, after filling out evaluations, the student body never sees them again.

Thomas J. Roach, a communications and public relations professor, makes an exception for his classes. On his office door he has the results of his evaluations and the accompanying comments that students left.

If students made a separate process of evaluation to use for themselves, they would be able to get a lot more information on professors, Roach said.

According to Jessie Martin, president of Student Government Association, the SGA is looking at the evaluations and the evaluation process along with how other

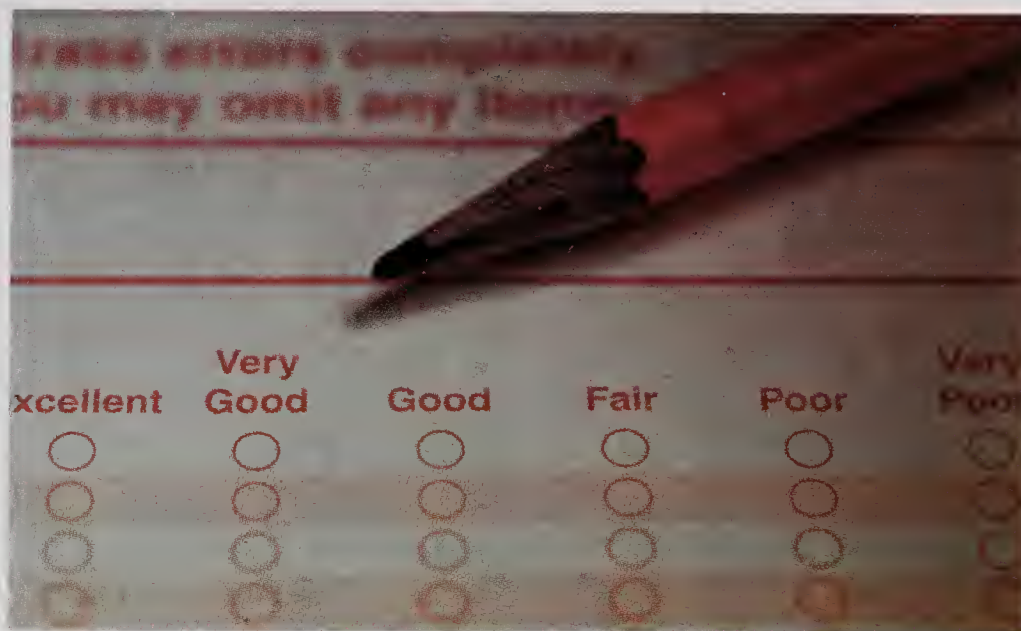


Photo Provided

universities and schools conduct and use their evaluations.

"Once we gather this information, we will be making a decision on how to move forward with faculty evaluations," Martin said.

If PUC's student government had an evaluation system as they do at Northwestern, they

could collect the information and publish it at the end of the school year, Roach said.

According to Janice Tazbir, associate professor of nursing, the only problem with a student ran professor evaluation is it would have to be voluntary. This would allow professors who feel

their evaluations are personal to opt out.

The current evaluations are voluntary and used to decide who wins the Outstanding Teacher Award and who earns tenure, Tazbir said. Professors can opt out of the evaluation; however, it is in

See Evaluation page 5

Start the semester with Welcome Back week

Felicia Dieguez
Chronicle Correspondent

Campus Life and Student Activities are sponsoring Welcome Back Week for new and returning students. Welcome Back Week will be Tuesday, Jan. 18 through Thursday, Jan. 20 with each day offering different events.

Hot chocolate and donuts will be served on Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., Assistant Director of Student Activities Carol Wolfe said. There will also be Wii games, such as "Mario Kart" and "Just

Dance," in Calumet Falls from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Wednesday, the film "Bounty Hunter," starring Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler, will play in Calumet Falls with free popcorn available. The first showing will start at 11 a.m. and the film will play repeatedly until 6 p.m.

Student Activities is planning an indoor picnic on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with music provided by a DJ. Students can choose between hot dogs or hamburgers and chips, cupcakes, and a soda will also be available. Food will be served while supplies

last, Wolfe said. Ice scrapers will also be handed out to students throughout the event.

Student organizations can also use Welcome Back Week to recruit new members. The Honors Program and Purdue University Gamers' Guild (PUGG) are just two of the student organizations participating in Welcome Back Week.

Brandon Rukes, president of the Honors Program, and Jade Lee Lynch, faculty advisor for PUGG, both said Welcome Back Week is important to their organization's development and growth.

The Honors Program sees a rise in awareness and number of people taking applications and brochures, Rukes said.

Lynch said, "We participate in Welcome Back Week because it gives us a chance to let students know PUGG exists and the many activities we offer."

It also gives Student Organizations a chance to get together and work out events.

Lynch, a PUC alumnus, remembers how important Welcome Back Week was for her. Even for seasoned students,

See Welcome page 5

PURDUE WELCOMES YOU BACK



Photo Provided

PUC history class to take trip to Costa Rica in spring

Andrea Drac
Staff Writer

Students enrolled in PUC's HIST42400 class, Latin American Societies, will take a trip to Costa Rica during spring 2011.

This trip is only open to students taking the class because the topics taught prepare students for a knowledgeable journey, according to Kathleen Tobin, class professor and course designer.

"I designed the course so that we will be studying and visiting a different country in Latin America each time it is taught," she said.

The University Senate approved the trip last year as an experiential learning class and it is also cross-listed with Spanish, for those who are seeking Spanish credit, she added. This course is the first one of its kind offered by PUC's history department.

The class is going to Costa Rica during PUC's spring break, from Mar. 12 through Mar. 20.

The cost of the class is \$2850 plus tuition, and that includes airfare, lodging, meals, in country travel and all program costs. Tobin said scholarships are available through the International Programs office, the history department and the Honors Program. Financial aid is also available for those students who qualify.

Tobin decided on Costa Rica first because students are comfortable traveling there and the airfare is less expensive than other countries.

Although this is a first for the history department, this is not the first time Tobin planned a trip for a group of students. In 2005, when she team-taught a class with Communications Professor Lee Artz, they took their students on a trip to Venezuela.

"Someday I hope to take students to Venezuela again, or Brazil," Tobin said. "Latin America is so diverse, and each country has such a unique history."

The class will not be engaging in many tourist activities as the trip is meant to be educational, she said. They will be meeting with Costa Rican citizens, activists, economists, historians and university students.

See Costa Rica page 4

ADMINISTRATIVE

update

Winter weather & decisions to close campus

Occasionally, in the interest of personal safety, it is necessary to suspend classes and/or close the campus due to adverse weather conditions or other sudden, unusual, or unexpected circumstances. The Chancellor, in consultation with the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, will decide when it is necessary to take such action. If a decision is made to alter normal campus operations, attempts will be made to notify faculty and staff via one or more of the communication channels listed below.

The decision to alter normal campus operations means either of the following:

"CLASSES ARE CANCELED"

This means that **ALL** classes scheduled to meet that particular day at on- and off-campus sites are canceled, **but** all university offices, departments, and services remain open. **OR . . .**

"THE UNIVERSITY IS CLOSED"

When the university is closed, only functions deemed essential to university operations would take place until further notice is given. The university is considered closed to all persons except those pre-designated necessary to perform essential functions. This requirement is necessary to provide for the appropriate safety and security of the campus community and facilitate the return of the campus to open status.

So that students, faculty and staff affected by either of the above conditions can receive information promptly and accurately, official notification will be communicated via one or more of the following communication channels:

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS:

Internet – Purdue University Calumet Website – www.purduecal.edu

"Alert me" text messaging system – When this system is activated, subscribers will receive a brief text message via their cell phone. **Note:** To subscribe to text messaging, go to www.purduecal.edu/alertme.

Public Address System – a campus-wide system to broadcast live messages providing instruction to the intra campus community.

Signage (Posted) – signage placed on building door entrance(s) providing information and/or direction.

E-mail – Outlook e-mail distribution can be used to deliver messages electronically and instantly to all faculty, staff and student e-mail addresses.

Signage (LED) – exterior electronic message boards located on 173rd St. and at the Academic Learning Center.

Local Media – The Assistant Vice Chancellor for University Relations serves as the official University spokesperson and will disseminate messages to the following media:

Radio

Chicago Emergency Closing Center
WGN (720 am)
WBBM (780 am)

WAKE (1500 am and 105.5 fm – Valparaiso)
WEFM (95.9 fm – Michigan City)
WIMS (1420 am – Michigan City)

WJOB (1230 am – Hammond)
WLOI (1540 am – LaPorte)
WXRJ (103.9 fm – Valparaiso)
WZVN (107 fm – Valparaiso)
WLTH (1270 am – Gary)
NW Indiana Lake Shore
Public Radio (89.1 fm – Merrillville)

Television (Chicago stations unless otherwise indicated)

ABC-TV/Channel 7 CLTV News NBC-TV/Channel 5
CBS-TV/Channel 2 Fox-TV/Channel 32 WGN-TV/Channel 9
NW Indiana Lake Shore Public Television

Purdue University Calumet Information Center – Incoming calls to 219/989-2993 or 219/989-2400 are received by a pre-recorded voice mail message to provide current information.

NOTIFICATION TO "RESUME" NORMAL CAMPUS OPERATIONS

At the direction of the Chancellor and/or Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, notification to resume normal campus operations will be communicated via Purdue University Calumet's homepage (www.purduecal.edu). Additional channels may be used as appropriate.

NOTE: Radio and television stations typically do not announce resumption of activities/operations.

Our best advice in the event of challenging, inclement weather...
Refer to the Purdue Calumet web site. The most current campus updates will be published there first.

What's Going On? A look around PUC...

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's First Meeting

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will be holding their first meeting of the semester on Thursday, January 20th, at 8 p.m. InterVarsity will discuss what the organization stands for and new changes in the upcoming semester. The meeting is open for anybody to attend.

For more information, send an e-mail to intervarsityatpuc@gmail.com.

Benefit for our Wounded and Hero Friend, John Masson

Date: January 22, 2011

Time: 1pm - 11pm

Place: American Legion Post 100

1899 Central Ave.

Lake Station, IN 46405

\$10 per person for benefit and food.

Any monetary gifts to the John Masson Benefit can be desposited at

First Midwest Bank: 7900 Broadway

Merrillville, IN 46410

Visit: www.johnmasson.com for updates.

Anyone interested in publicizing events, organizations, clubs or departments in "What's Going On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit submissions to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at chronicle@calumet.purdue.edu or campus cc: mail - Chronicle or to the newsroom located in the Student Union and Library building, room 344H.

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AP
ASSOCIATED
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PRESS

Inform students of cancelled classes



Brandy Dieterle
Managing Editor

Have you ever driven to campus for class just to see a sign on the door stating it has been cancelled?

This has happened to me on numerous occasions, particularly when I drove the 30 minutes just for one class. If this isn't bad enough, it has also occurred on days when the roads have been covered in snow or ice, but I felt obligated to attend due to what would be covered in class that day.

The most recent example of such an instance is the first day of finals week last semester. Luckily, I did not have to be on campus until 1 p.m., but some students and instructors did not have that luxury. In this particular instance, PUC's Web site stated campus would remain open, which I find ridiculous we should put our safety at risk for a final.

A friend of mine who lives in Porter County asked her instructor if she could take the final at another time, and her instructor agreed. Other students with such gracious instructors may not have thought to ask and missed out on this opportunity.

I wouldn't expect them to take the time to send an e-mail via a smartphone.

Ultimately, I believe PUC should adopt some way to alert students a class has been cancelled or if there will be no penalty for failing to attend class due to weather.

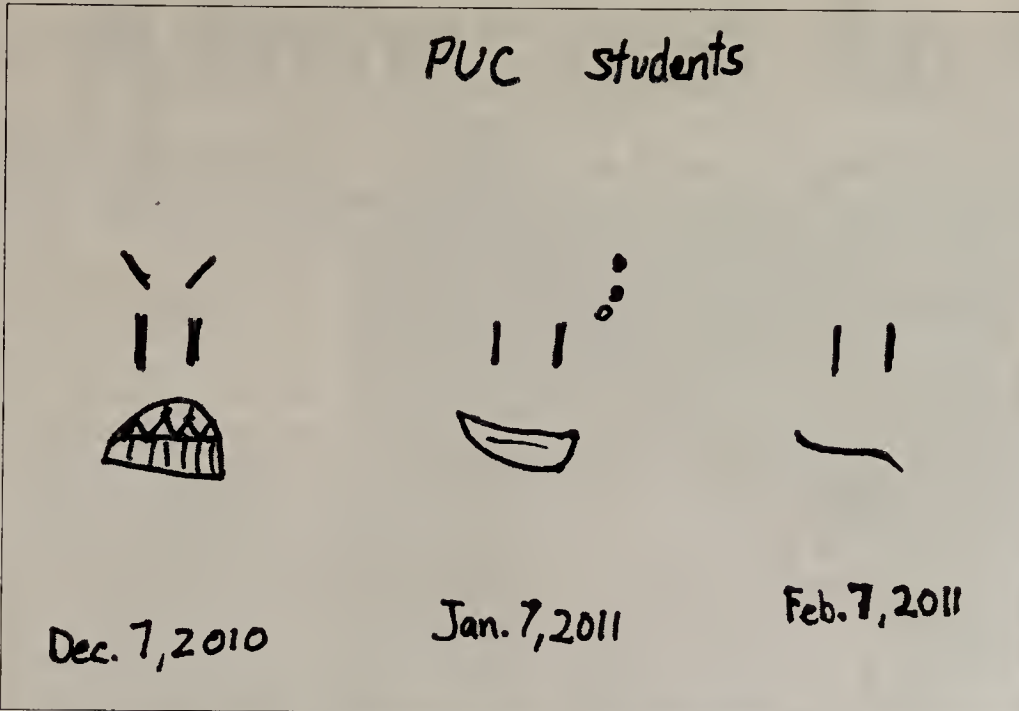
One way to do this is via e-mail. On the first day of class, instructors can ask students for an e-mail address checked regularly, which usually is one other than their PUC e-mail. When such a circumstance arises where class is cancelled or optional, the instructor could send a quick e-mail from their home to their students.

Granted, not all students may think to check their e-mail before they leave for campus, but this could prevent students from coming to campus for no reason at all. Students who have an 8 a.m. class might be able to go back to bed and catch extra sleep, or maybe they have a 3 hour break they could spend productively at home instead of sitting around campus for even longer.

I realize notifying students may not occur every time because if an instructor gets into a car accident on their way to class, I wouldn't expect them to take the time to send an e-mail via a smartphone, if they have one.

Instructors, this can easily be accomplished by putting in a little time and effort. In the end, I think such a courtesy would be greatly appreciated by all.

Readers can contact Brandy at chronicle@purduecal.edu or (219) 989-2547.



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Brandon Stookey, News Editor
Dune Lorenz, Entertainment Editor
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Speaking the truth

The issue: Professor performance hidden from students.
Our stance: Make evaluations public.

Universities often boast about their outstanding faculty, but universities are businesses and businesses have an image to maintain. To do this, universities attempt to control the information available to students and the general public. While certain information can be detrimental to an image, making professor evaluations available to the students can help the university grow.

During the registration process, the student body often discusses professors and courses in an attempt to get a feel for what lies ahead. This also gives them the opportunity to make an attempt to drop a course or find a different professor if the feedback is negative. Wouldn't it be best for students to have access to evaluations instead of going by word of mouth?

Universities that keep such information private are merely stunting their own growth. Professors who receive negative evaluations need to be encouraged to improve their future evaluations, but what incentive do they have? If students are aware of the negative evaluations, they can seek a professor with better evaluations or opt to take a different course entirely and if not enough students are registered, the course will be cancelled.

Student awareness of positive evaluations benefits the university as well by giving supporting evidence of their outstanding faculty. Possible students could check PUC professor evaluations and may base their application upon the results they see. Even current students may opt to continue their education as a graduate student

because their professors inspired them to do so.

Making professor evaluations available to students would also reflect well on the university because they are being upfront and honest about their faculty. This could also keep speculation under control if a professor retires early or decides to no longer continue teaching at PUC. A possible explanation would be available if the professor has continuously received negative evaluations instead of leaving the public to speculate for themselves.

Chancellor Howard Cohen made a statement on the value of integrity at PUC and said, "The mission of a university is to educate the next generation to carry on our society and advance it to the next level."

See Truth page 4

COMMENTS?

Write to us and see your thoughts in print!

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in submitted commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Chronicle or Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the writer's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. The more concise the letter, the better chance of publication. All materials submitted to The Chronicle become the property of The Chronicle. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Deadline for submissions is the Friday before the publication.

Loyalty in Sports



Ryan Riverside
Editor in Chief

Just like how patriotism only flares up on July 4 and September 11, the Bears game this past weekend brought to mind the fickleness of sports fans. People tout their support of this team or that team, but only when it is convenient for them. This spans from NFL Playoffs all the way to the Olympic Games.

Instead of enjoying the sports year-round, like some fans do, supporting their local team the entire time, many people only put on their Bears jerseys when the Bears are doing well. When the Bears fail and have a losing season, Colts and Packers jerseys show up more. Perhaps the Olympics are a better example: the sports popular during the Olympics have next to no draw at any other time. They are sports that Americans only pay attention to every four years, starting with the Olympic Trials.

This speaks volumes about America. Not only are we pretentious about our sports, but many of us require instant gratification. If the team is not winning, Americans change the channel to watch people try to live in semi-populated jungles without their cell phones. It is hard to blame them, though, since players act the same way, jumping or being traded from team to team year after year, always trying to get a better win record, better statistics, and an eventual ring.

Part of it might be that people have been so inundated with sports entertainment, something has to have a lot of flash and bang about it to draw much attention from the general public. More people watch the Super Bowl, the flashiest and most expensive football game, than watch all the other games on any given Sunday combined, and possibly more than all the other games in a given week. People who don't even normally care about football tune in, as if knowing which team pulls away with the national championship is vital information which must be attained firsthand.

Perhaps the biggest and most local example of this would be the Stanley Cup last year. Most people do not watch hockey, but when word trickled through the grapevine that Chicago might have a contender team, people who hadn't watched hockey since Gretzky tuned in and pulled out their dusty, moth-infested jerseys. When the Blackhawks pulled the Cup, people everywhere rejoiced, as if Chicago as a whole had done it. The pride on their faces seems to stake a claim that they, by wearing a jersey once or twice to class, personally ensured the win.

Americans like sports in a way not like people who are religious only on Sundays, but more like people who are only religious on Easter.

Readers can contact Ryan at ryan.riverside@gmail.com or (219) 989-2547.

Students reach out to Dominican Republic orphans

Brandon Stookey
News Editor

Over the upcoming spring break, eight students and six faculty and staff members will travel to the Dominican Republic to teach English to children in an orphanage as part of the Spring Break-Thru program.

The trip will last from Mar. 12 to Mar. 19, Rick Riddering, director of student development and outreach, said. As of this time, they are no longer accepting anyone else for the trip.

Spring Break-Thru is a program dedicated to making a positive difference in the world, Riddering said. Since Spring Break-Thru began three years ago, PUC has helped in many different community service projects.

The only requirement needed to participate in a Spring Break-Thru event is to be a student, faculty or a staff member of PUC. Numerous community service projects are going on over the upcoming spring break, Riddering said.

Melinda Dalgarn, vice chancellor for student affairs, decided PUC should participate in the Spring Break-Thru program, Riddering said. She felt this program would offer great opportunities for the PUC community.

Donna Sadural, a biology major and treasurer for Los Latinos, is one of the students volunteering at the orphanage in the Dominican Republic.

"Ever since I started my college career, I've always



Photo Provided

Alexandra Umphries, Carolina Hernandez, and Jessica Tabor were volunteering at the Chicago Bears concession stand to raise money for their spring break trip.

wanted to do something or study outside of the country," Sadural said. "Helping children in an orphanage is a great opportunity."

The trip to the Dominican Republic is the first international community service project Spring Break-Thru has attempted, Riddering said. With such an emphasis put on Experiential Learning, PUC is ready to expand to an international project.

"It's a really cool program and I am really pleased with the students that stepped forward," he said.

Students and faculty have already volunteered their time to work a concession stand at two Chicago Bears games to raise money for their trip, he added. Spring Break-Thru worked

through DNC Sportservice, which helps non-profit organizations raise money.

Each member going on the trip to the Dominican Republic will need to raise \$1450. They will be continuing different fundraising projects and seeking donations from family and friends.

A group of students returned to the Chicago Bear's concessions stand Jan. 16 to volunteer their time to raise money for the trip.

"I'm very proud of the fact that Purdue Calumet's students have such a wonderful giving heart and are willing to help the nation and now the world of the Dominican Republic," Riddering said.

Costa Rica

continued from page 1

One student going on the Costa Rica trip is Genae Barron, a media studies major with a Spanish minor, took a similar educational trip herself last summer to Nicaragua.

"I am hoping to be pushed to my limit emotionally, physically and mentally," she said. "I desire to see the side of the country that most tourists do not have the privilege to see."

She is looking forward to everything the Costa Rica trip has to offer, but there is one aspect

in particular she is very excited about.

"I am looking forward to everything, but mostly a fruit drink called jugo de pitaya," she said. "In Nicaragua, it is a deep purple drink made out of dragon fruit. I hope that it is popular in Costa Rica!"

Tobin said these kinds of trips have many benefits for students.

"Even a brief visit like this can be life changing, and I hope it will inspire students to engage in more international travel," she said.

POLICE BLOTTER

1.12.11 - SUL - 2 a.m.

Gas valves were again found to be leaking near the Oaken Arbor Café.

Fire Dept/Nipsco Respond

1.5.11 - UV2 - 4 p.m.

Someone broke a window out of a parked vehicle and took items.

Open

1.5.11 - UV2 - 12 p.m.

Someone stole items from an unlocked bedroom.

Open

1.7.11 - UV2 - 6 p.m.

UV personnel located a knife in a resident room. Knife was confiscated.

Open

1.8.11 - FNRC - 4 p.m.

Someone took a wallet from a purse located in a duffie bag in the gym.

Closed

CAMPUS SAFETY TIP:

Should you ever see something occurring on campus that seems suspicious, you can report it anonymously by:

• Phoning the Purdue Calumet Anonymous Hot Line at 219-989-2912

• Contacting online Silent Witness at www.webs.calumet.purdue.edu/police/silentwitness

Welcome

continued from page 1

Welcome Back Week is important because interests change depending upon classes and activities.

Lynch said she has personally witnessed the positive effects of Welcome Back Week on her own students.

"As an instructor, I hear students talk about different organizations they've never heard of before, but were able to learn about at the event," Lynch said.

- Hot chocolate and donuts in SUL concourse, Tuesday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Wii games in Calumet Falls, Tuesday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Showing of "Bounty Hunter" and free popcorn in Calumet Falls, Wednesday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Indoor picnic in Calumet Falls, Thursday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Truth

continued from page 3

Where do students and the general public see evidence of this lately? Students do not have access to professor evaluations, which can impact the quality of education received when the student unknowingly takes a course with a professor with negative evaluations.

PUC is also witnessing many administrators stepping down, some to retire and others for reasons unstated. While this could be due in part to Cohen's retirement this summer, a secretive search for a replacement does nothing to placate students and faculty, and eschews

university officials' concern about integrity and quality education.

Being upfront and honest about such information does not have to taint the image universities seek.

PUC Athletics to hold Veterans Recognition

Brandon Stookey
News Editor

Veterans were recognized at PUC's basketball game Saturday, Jan. 15 by being given free admittance to the game.

Free admittance is a way for the athletic department to thank those who are serving our country, Assistant Director for Health Recreations and Sports Jordon Bruner said.

"I think it is a good way to recognize those who serve our country and allow them to check us out and get a feel for what Purdue Calumet's basketball is all about," Bruner said.

Approximately 150 veterans attend PUC, according to Steve Brumfield, a PUC student and From Boots to Books (FBBP) member. Brumfield said he looks forward to such opportunities.

"I'm a veteran myself and anytime we receive any kind of recognition we appreciate it that much more," he said.

Because of the current status of the war with USA transitioning out, a lot more veterans will return home. This means many of these

returning veterans will try to adapt to a new lifestyle, Brumfield said.

From FBBP is a student organization designed to help veterans adjust to civilian life. Their goal is to teach veterans how to go from being vigilant and mistrustful, which was crucial to their survival overseas, to be more trustful and open, which is essential to leading a successful academic career.

"What we have in common is taking what we learned and gained from our experience in the military and adapting it to a new environment," Brumfield said.



Photo Provided

IS Connection

Information Services at Purdue University Calumet

How do I access my online course?
How do I submit assignments online?
What do I do if I have problems with Blackboard?

Get answers to these and any other questions you have about your online classes or Blackboard at any one of the following student orientation sessions. No registration is required.

Blackboard Student Help Sessions:

Date	Time
January 11, 2011	9:00am—11:00am
January 12, 2011	1:00pm – 3:00pm
January 13, 2011	11:00am – 1:00pm
January 18, 2011	9:00am—11:00am 2:00pm—4:00pm
January 19, 2011	11:00am – 1:00pm
January 20, 2011	9:00am—11:00am 3:00pm—5:00pm
January 21, 2011	10:00am—12:00pm

All sessions are held in Gyte 135.
Stop by our office any time during the help sessions for a Blackboard tutorial.

Please make sure to check out <http://webs.calumet.purdue.edu/oit/ecourses> for other important information like:

Getting Started with Blackboard
Setting up Java correctly

Additional Support
E-mail: ecourses@purduecal.edu

webs.calumet.purdue.edu/infosvcs

Your feedback on our services is always welcome. Please send your comments to Customer Service Center at csc@purduecal.edu

Evaluation

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the professor's best interest to do the evaluations.

"We're trying to move towards [evaluations being] more of a culture," Tazbir said.

The way evaluations are administered has been changing. A few years ago the only way for evaluations to be done was via the "cafeteria method," which is the normal pen and paper format. However, this method is expensive because all the evaluations are shipped to West Lafayette and back for processing. This could cost up to \$40,000.

There are now three other types of evaluations a professor can utilize, Tazbir said. The first is via Vista Blackboard, which requires students to fill out questions asked of them online.

The next is via the IDEA system. This system makes room for the differences between departments by taking into consideration some classes value knowledge over creativity, and vice versa. This process yields a more detailed result.

"We are trying to make this the more preferred system," Tazbir said.

A personalized evaluation created by professors is the final method. This requires the professors to create their own questions and analyze the results before turning it in to the department.

Each method has its pros and cons, Tazbir pointed out. In the end, thought, the results of all the current evaluations are not for students' eyes. In the future, hopefully students will be able to see the evaluations they fill out.

We're Open!
M-Sat. 7am, Sunday 10am

Kenwood Lanes

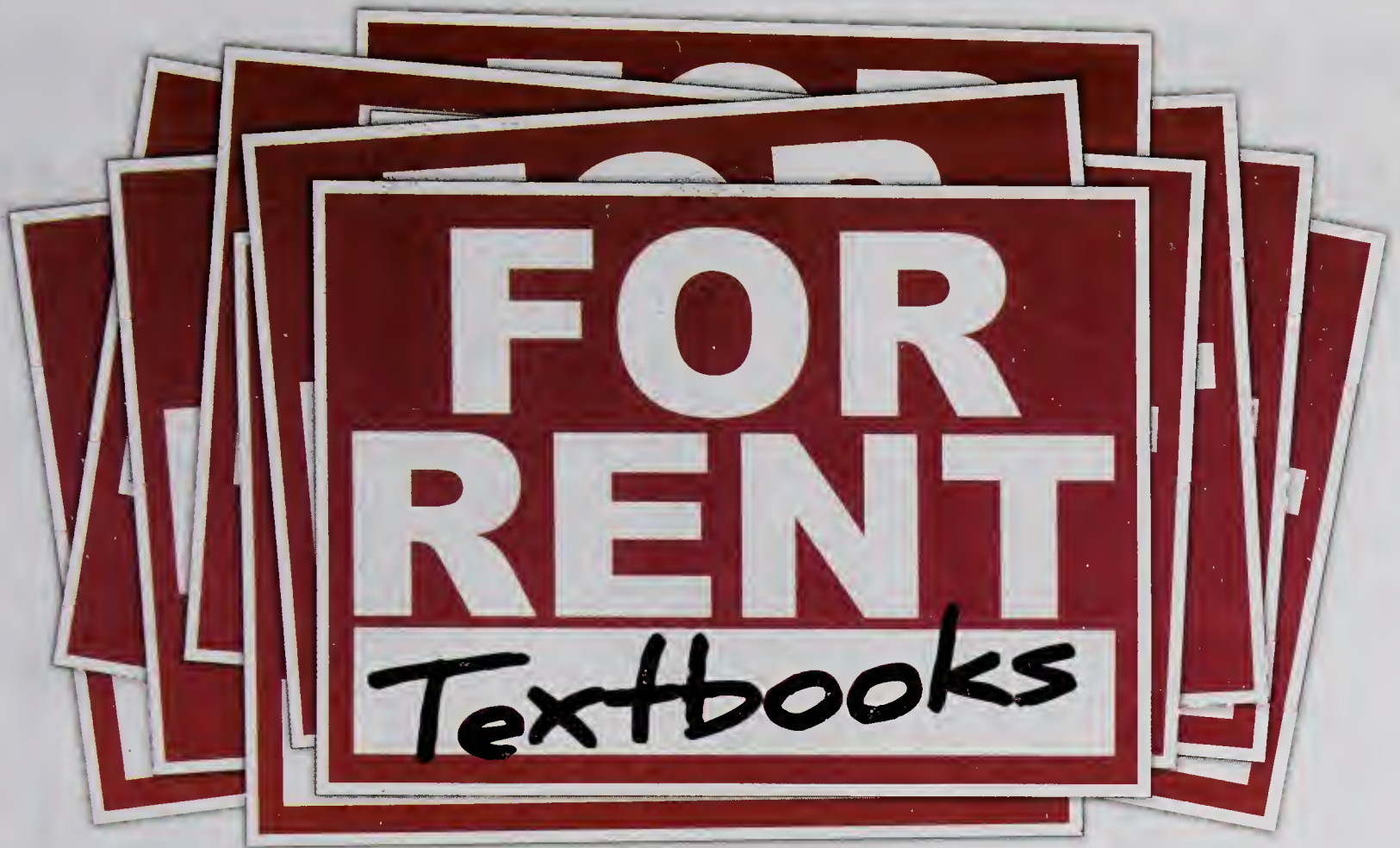
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www.pucal.bkstr.com



'Green Hornet' Stingingly Funny

Bill Koester

Asst. Sports Editor

Just about every comic book seems to have either recently been adapted into a movie or has one in production. But while big name heroes like Batman and Spiderman are given the huge summer blockbuster treatment, less famous characters are given smaller budgeted films released in slower movie seasons, like now, in the middle of January.

The latest comics character to get their moment in the sun is the Green Hornet, who originated as a radio show character in the 1930s in the days before television. The character also was featured in his own comic book and movie serial, as well as a short-lived 1960s TV series notable for featuring the late Bruce Lee.

Instead of making a by-the-numbers action picture on a lesser budget, however, the filmmakers have taken a different route. Writers Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg ("Superbad," "Pineapple Express") have crafted a very funny action comedy as a parody of the superhero genre.

Rogen plays Britt Reid, the spoiled heir to the Los Angeles newspaper "The Daily Sentinel," who inherits the paper after

the death of his father (Tom Wilkinson). After learning that his father had a strange hobby of developing cars with all sorts of weaponry, Reid teams up with his father's butler and mechanic Kato (Taiwanese pop star Jay Chou) to help fight crime in the city, under the moniker The Green Hornet.

In truth, Chou actually does pretty much all the crime fighting. He displays skills in hand-to-hand combat, explosion-filled shootouts, and destructive car chases that would rival those of Batman, Rambo and Bruce Lee combined. All these action sequences are very over-the-top, obviously fake and stylized, but they are always entertaining to watch, and, on a handful of occasions, very amusing.

Despite this, Rogen manages to steal the show. He is hysterical as a dimwitted egotist who has absolutely no clue that he is totally inept at fighting crime, as well as wooing his hot secretary played by Cameron Diaz. Somehow, watching him fall on his face over and over again never gets old.

Also funny is Christoph Waltz as the film's main antagonist, a vain old gangster who is jealous that the Green Hornet is making him seem less threatening to the public at large. Sadly, his character does not get very much screen time, but he



Photo Provided

See Hornet page 8

Welcome Back Week from Student Activities

Free hot chocolate & donuts

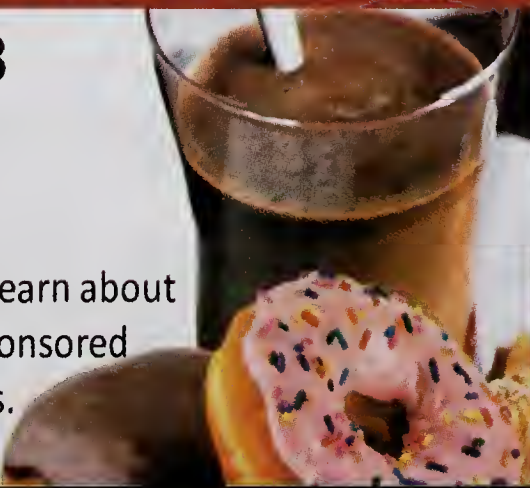
January 18

9am - 11am

SUL Concourse

Get free treats and learn about upcoming events sponsored by Student Activities.

Available while quantities last



Wii Fun & Games
Tuesday, Jan. 18

11am-2pm

Calumet Falls, SUL

Free; Sponsored by
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Student Activities Presents

Movie & Popcorn

"Bounty Hunter"

Weds., January 19

TV Room, SUL

11am, 1pm & 3pm

Free



Indoor Picnic & DJ

Thurs., January 20

11am-2pm

Calumet Falls, SUL

Make your day sunny by eating, dancing and relaxing with Student Activities. It's fun and free for PUC students.



Available while quantities last

Old is new again in ‘Donkey Kong Country Returns’

Brian Lynch
Asst. Entertainment Editor

For the most part, Wii versions of classic franchises retain very little from the games they are based on. Sure, they may feature familiar characters and themes, but the settings and gameplay are often wildly different. Then there is “Donkey Kong Country Returns,” a game that, graphical upgrades aside, looks and feels like it could have easily slipped into the SNES library. And it is a breath of fresh air.

As with most Nintendo games, the story is paper-thin. A bunch of evil tiki things steal DK’s banana stash, forcing Donkey and Diddy Kong to give chase. While the premise may be weak, the rest of the game is anything but. Anyone who played the original “Donkey Kong Country” games will be instantly familiar with “Returns.” Players progress through increasingly difficult levels, collecting bananas and hidden objects. Familiar series mainstays like barrel cannons, animal vehicles and the dreaded



Photo Provided

mine cart sequences have all made triumphant returns. Donkey Kong can still stomp on and roll over enemies, as well as perform a ground-pound maneuver by shaking the Wiimote. “Returns” also features cooperative play for the first time in the series. While it is a welcome addition, it slows the pace down considerably as one player is often left waiting for the other to catch up.

Thankfully, the occasional shaking of the controller is as obtrusive as the Wii interface gets. Players hold the Wiimote sideways like a traditional controller, which only adds to the games old school feel. The controls are fluid and responsive, making “Returns” a joy to play. The visuals are extremely impressive, and arguably the best seen on the Wii so far.

Where “Donkey Kong Country Returns” truly shines is where most Wii games fail: the difficulty. In order to appeal to younger and casual gamers, often a game’s difficulty is scaled down. This is not the case with “Returns.” The game is genuinely challenging and constantly keeps players on their toes. In fact, there are a few areas, particularly the mine cart stages, which are downright frustrating and rely heavily on trial-and-error. While the difficulty might be too much for younger players, veterans of the series will appreciate the challenge “Returns” offers.

2010 was truly one of Nintendo’s best years in quite a while. They proved that they were capable of appealing to the casual market while delivering Triple A titles to their hardcore fans. “Donkey Kong Country Returns” is Nintendo’s crowning achievement in a year of quality releases, and the perfect example of why everyone should own a Wii.

“Donkey Kong Country Returns” for the Nintendo Wii receives a 9 out of 10

Hornet

continued from page 7

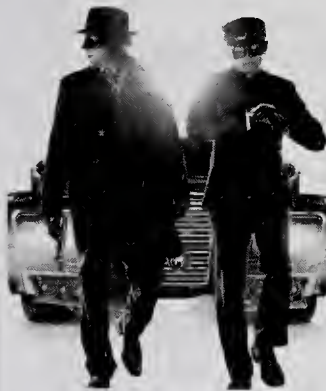


Photo Provided

nails the scenes he is in almost as well as his Oscar-winning role in “Inglourious Basterds.”

With all the crazy action and humor, it is easy to overlook the fact that the movie as a whole is a bit disjointed. Scenes and plot points do not really transition well at times, and sometimes the structure of the film seems kind of random.

Setting the disjointed structure aside, the film shines when the audience just goes along for the ride. In an era where films like “The Dark Knight” are taking comic book movies in darker and more brutal directions, “The Green Hornet” is a refreshing reminder of just how fun and zany the genre can also be.

“The Green Hornet” receives a 7 out of 10.

‘X-Men’ for X-Chickens

Dune Lorenz
Entertainment Editor

The genre of beat ‘em ups has rarely ever been about quality, so much as the players’ frantic and fevered hands clutching controllers and joysticks with teeth-grinding ferocity. In a time where the level of video game difficulty is questionable at best, re-releases of these previous pillars of prowess is welcomed : except for “X-Men.”

The concept is simple enough: up to six X-Men must “GO AND SAVE THE CITY” from their arch-nemesis Magneto with punches, kicks and special mutant powers that vary with the character. Magneto then proceeds to kidnap their mentor and cohort in an elaborate trap to lure the X-Men into battles to the death in various locations (city, caves and asteroids to name a few), with the same enemies in different colored clothing for an extended period--25 minutes to be exact. HOW THRILLING!

Or it would be, if there were any challenge.

While the premise of fans picking between their favorite X-Men (Colossus, Cyclops, Dazzler, Nightcrawler, Storm and Wolverine) and saving the world together in their superhero jammies is as everlastingly appealing as ever, the game offers unlimited continues. This had no part of the original experience and, frankly, breaks the game.

By offering unlimited continues, the player becomes one of the unappreciative brats from “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” missing the point of the genre entirely. As a result, a few savored quarters at the arcade unit become a meaningless pile, squandering away any faint hint of a challenge that the game once had.

Without the threat to the players’ virtual lives, the game becomes less of an interactive game and more like an episode of “Dora the Explorer” humoring its audience. The fun of beat ‘em ups is found in determining how

close each individual player is to being Jean-Claude Van Damme, particularly in “Bloodsport” and “Lionheart.” Without this, players are left as harmless and unchallenged as a box of Teddy Grahams.

The game has its merits - such as playing with up to six

friends online (four offline on the 360, six offline on the PS3) to beat up on baddies, and ridiculous dialogue fit for greeting cards. Unfortunately, players have a better chance of entertainment buying greeting cards.

Bringing an immediate frown to players’ faces is what “X-Men”

does best, a result hardly worth the ten dollar price tag, let alone the rapture of a player’s childhood arcade memories.

“X-Men” on the Xbox Live Arcade and the PlayStation Network receives a 4 out of 10.



Photo Provided

COLLEGE MENTORS
FOR KIDS



Mondays 3:30 - 5:30
On Campus Planned
Activities Apply by: M M

<http://blogs.calumet.purdue.edu/cmfk/puc/>

Coens stay 'True' to form

Michelle Mullins
Staff Writer

The latest from the legendary Coen Brothers is "True Grit," a story full of gunpowder, gore and unexpected giggles. With a stellar cast, outstanding script and their trademark style, "True Grit" is sure to be a shoe-in for Oscar nominations this February.

The story of "True Grit" is centered around a 14-year-old girl named Mattie Ross, played by newcomer Hailee Steinfeld, who vows revenge after her father is killed in cold blood by Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin). She then hires U.S. Marshall Rooster Cogburn to track down Chaney, but not without her assistance. The unlikely duo runs into Texas Ranger LaBoeuf (Matt Damon) and together the trio travel through Indian Territory in the fall of 1877 to embark on a search for Tom Chancey and The Pepper Gang.

The Coen Brother's style is written and displayed all over this movie. From the scenes filled with fresh, fluid and interesting dialogue that grasp the audience, even in a scene merely consisting of talk about horse trading, to the scenes drenched with suspense

as the audience waits to see if Cogburn will actually be able to take down a criminal from miles away with nothing but a rifle and one eye. Bridges and Damon play off of each other as if they have acted in countless movies before, but Steinfeld is truly the one who shocks the crowd. She holds her own and often steals the scene from veterans Damon and recent Oscar winner Bridges.

Although Steinfeld is the star, Bridges and Damon bring a comedic and, at the same time, serious feel to the movie. They are hilarious when necessary and straight shooters when the time calls for it. Brolin as Chaney brings something new to the screen, coming from an all around tough guy from the Coens' film "No Country for Old Men" back in 2007, to a bumbling killer in "True Grit." He shows that he is not going to be a type-cast actor and has a lot more to offer than just good looks. Though it is strange to see the Coens take on the western, a genre that has seemed all but dead in recent years, they bring it to life with superb directing which allows this adaptation to flourish.

Mattie Ross is one of the reasons why this movie is not just a straight gun-toting

Western, but a movie with a mind and soul. Seeing a 14-year-old girl, especially of the 1800s, be so strong and completely self-reliant is a shock and is executed perfectly. She never backs down, even against aggressors more than three times her age. She has the tenacity of an old soul trapped in the body of a girl. This may have seemed like an extremely difficult role for someone so young to take on, but Steinfeld masters the role beautifully.

"True Grit" is based on Charles Portis' 1968 novel of the same name. Though, unlike the John Wayne vehicle of 1969, the Coens truly bring the novel to life for the first time, utilizing much of the original dialogue of the novel and allowing actors to pull off some interesting stunts. They are able to showcase their trademark of dark comedy, particularly in a scene where Damon gets a bit "tongue-tied."

Their use of humor really helps the audience feel more for the characters and hope that everyone accomplishes their goals in the end. Through it all, it feels like the audience is part of their journey. The Coens are able to grab the audience by throwing in words or phrases that probably have not been heard in decades.

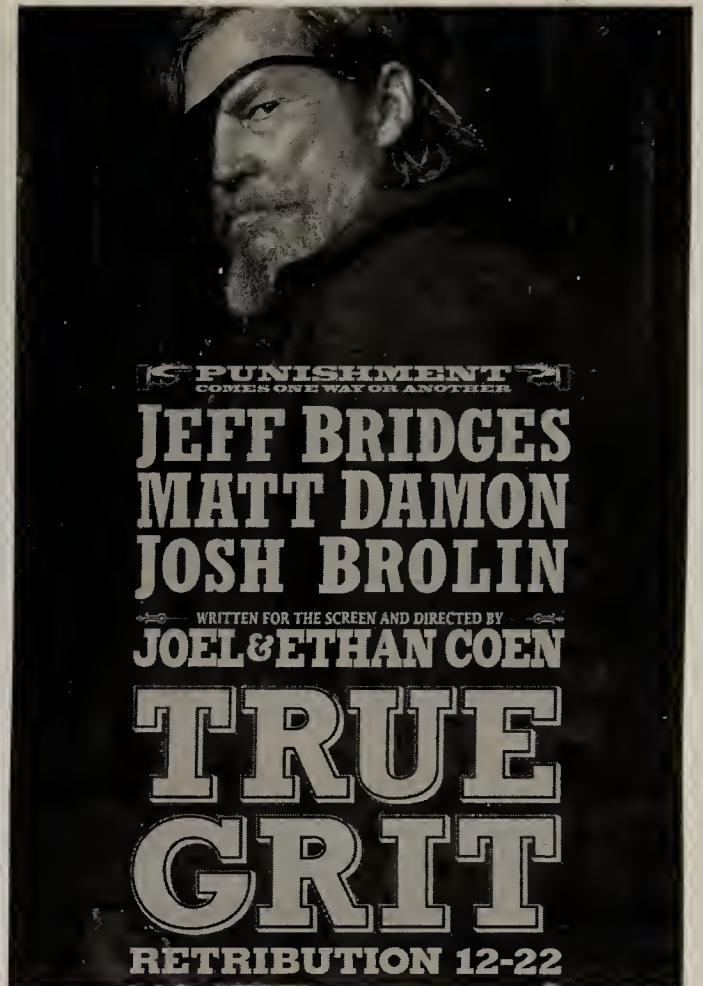


Photo Provided

Such as "poke" which means a sack or "let it knit" which would mean to let something heal on its own. These little splashes of legitimacy thrust the viewer back into a lost time, and it was done perfectly.

"True Grit" may not be on the top of everyone's list,

but it definitely needs to be. A heavy-hitting cast, phenomenal directors and a fresh look at an old Western story to boot; this movie will not allow itself to be overlooked.

"True Grit" receives a 9 out of 10.

'Little Fockers,' Big Laughs

Kayla Greenwell
Copy Editor

The third installment of the "Focker" trilogy, "Little Fockers" is easily one of the better comedy movies of the season. Although Jay Roach, the director of the previous two movies, did not work on this film, Paul Weitz does a great job of capturing the feel and comedy of the other two films, making it easy for even newcomers to seamlessly join in on the laughter.

Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) is married with two twins and feels that he is doing well for himself. That is, until father-in-law Jack Byrnes (Robert DeNiro) gives him a call. Byrnes wants to make sure that he has a successor as the Patriarch of the family, and he is giving this chance to Greg. Greg accepts the challenge and hilarity ensues.

The director does a great job bringing different genres into the movie by filming it a bit differently. There are times when the film feels almost dramatic such as when Jack Byrnes follows Greg to a business meeting. By switching up camera shots and the pacing of the film it keeps the audience interested and refreshed, making it seem like having several films in one.

The acting was fantastic as well. Owen Wilson reprises his role as Kevin Rawley, an obnoxiously rich bachelor in love with Greg's wife Pam. Spending money so nonchalantly on crazy things like mini-Cadillac Escalade golf carts provide some of the funniest parts of the movie.

Ben Stiller and Robert DeNiro play well off of each other throughout the film. Their

strained, competitive relationship is believable and relatable to real life, simulating typical battles amongst male family members to be able to call themselves "king of the hill." Sometimes the competition gets a little out of hand, and DeNiro and Stiller handle it perfectly.

A large problem with sequels and so forth is the story line and the acting thin out., with the

cast and directors working the same angle so much it becomes boring, putting the audience to sleep in their chairs. "Little Fockers," however, comes at a different angle and the writing remains fresh and amusing. While the other two focused on dating and meeting the parents, "Little Fockers" focuses on the children and how they change relationships.

There is never a dull moment in the film, providing easy justification for a ten dollar movie ticket. With so many different aspects of comedy in the film, laughs come so easily that it is hard not to enjoy "Little Fockers."

"Little Fockers" receives a 7 out of 10.

Little
Fockers
This Christmas

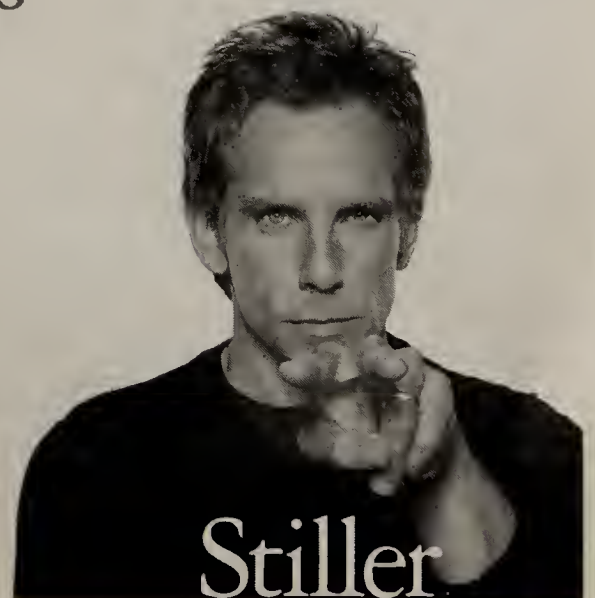


Photo Provided

A Scholarship earned in blood

Bill Koester
Asst. Sports Editor

Women's basketball Guard Alex Starr, a sophomore biology major, spent much of 2010 working with the Red Cross to help give back to the PUC community. Shortly into the new year, the Red Cross gave something back to her.

Starr received a \$2000 scholarship from Red Cross for participating in the organization's Youth Leadership Program over the summer. A total of 12 other athletes throughout the NAIA also received the scholarship.

This is just the latest step in the long association Starr has had with the Red Cross. Her work with the organization began when she was in high school.

At the behest of Sports Information Director Jordon Bruner, one player from each PUC team was chosen to participate in activities with the Red Cross.

Because of her experience with the organization in high school, Starr was chosen to represent the women's basketball team.

Starr was then selected for the Youth Leadership Program. The program entailed not only the aforementioned scholarship, but also a trip to Washington D.C.

In the capitol, the participants in the program went to a Red Cross conference and learned what they can do to promote the organization at their universities. They also had the opportunity to explore the city and tour famous sites, such as the White House. The trip was a great experience for Starr, one she was not certain she would get to have at first.

"I was really surprised I got into the program," she said. "There were so many applicants."

During the fall 2010 semester, Starr helped promote the blood drive on campus by getting athletes to compete in a

contest to see who could recruit the most donors.

After a successful turnout for the fall drive, Starr is now focusing on the upcoming drive later this spring. Giving blood is something she recommends everyone do.

"You only have to give blood," she said. "It's a great way to help people."

Starr is taking her efforts one step further by starting a Red Cross Club on campus to help students get more involved in their community. She is also

pushing for PUC to start offering a class on first aid and CPR, but she expects working with Red Cross to continue long after she graduates.

"I always want to be involved with the Red Cross," she said.



Photo Provided

Men's

continued from page 12

Leading the way on the stretch were seniors Michael Patton and Neal Hudson, both of which scored double figures consistently throughout, while also chipping in on the glass.

These performances lead to Patton's first CCAC player of the week award this season the first week of January.

"We bought into coach's system and wanted to work hard. We were tired of losing and wanted to be the best," Hudson said.

Also making his presence known was sophomore forward Kameron Bright, who led the way in points for PUC in two contests during the semester break.

Juniors and senior players need to show consistency in their performance.

"I think we need that senior leadership to help pull the others along," Hudson said.

With a 7-11 record overall with a 2-5 conference clip, men's basketball is looking to

finish strong into the conference tournament and are happy with their progress.

"I think we are really close to where I thought we would be developmentally," Voudrie said. "But would we have liked to have a few more wins than the wins we have? Absolutely."

"We now are coming together, headed in the right direction and everyone is on the same page," Hudson added.

One thing the men still do have with them is mental toughness, something that has not left the team even through the tough stretches of the season.

"Our confidence never waivers, we always play together and believe in the ability we each have," Hudson said emphatically, a good sign for the men for the remainder of the campaign.

The men take the floor next at Robert Morris Jan. 20 and come home Jan. 22 for a match-up with St. Xavier at 3 p.m.

Turner on fire

Julie Sipek
Sports Reporter

Guard Tierra Turner of the women's basketball team has taken an already impressive season to new heights in 2011. Turner received her third CCAC Player of the Week award this season on Jan 3.

Turner, whose major is undecided, earned the award for her outstanding play against Huntington and Goshen colleges in which she scored 26 and 18 points respectively. Although she is only a sophomore, she possesses great leadership qualities and confidence on the court, which can be attributed to her success.

"Tierra is a leader by example," women's basketball coach Tom Megyesi said. "She has tremendous passion for basketball and will do what it takes to win."

Incidentally, that passion began when she was a fourth grade cheerleader.

"Not many people would think I was a cheerleader," she said, "But I quit cheerleading to play basketball. I just started playing one day with the boys on the block and I loved it."

Despite her love of the game, Turner had no training and failed to make her fourth grade all-boys team. However, her determination and passion forced her to keep practicing, and the following year she made the team.

Turner went on to play in middle school and high school before tearing her ACL her senior year just before sectionals.

She came back from her injury by playing for PUC her freshman year. Now, as a sophomore, Turner is no longer interested in cheerleading, but is a huge Kobe Bryant fan. She has even developed a fan base of her

own with her recent success here in Hammond.

While her awards are well deserved, they came as a surprise to the guard.

"It really feels good to be Player of the Week three times this season, especially as only a sophomore," she said.

Her success and the success of the team as a whole have coincided this

season, and the women expect to continue on to their end of season goal, the national tournament.

"Some of the games we lost shouldn't have been losses," Turner said. "I'll give us one more loss this season, but that's it. I love my teammates and we want to go to nationals."



Chronicle file photo

Women's

continued from page 12

Tierra Turner, or for Beck, who are averaging nearly 20 and 17 points respectively. The combo has led the team in scoring for over half of their contests thus far, with Beck recently surpassing the 1,000 point mark for her career at PUC.

Turner is also coming off of her third CCAC player of the week award this season after averaging 22 points, 7.5 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 4 steals per game the week leading into the New Year.

"Those are two very unselfish players who really want to win, and they are doing whatever it takes to win," Megyesi said. "They are very focused all the time and work hard in practice, leading by example."

"Tierra has been absolutely huge," Beck said. "She did great

for us last year but she is really having a break out year. She does it all, everyday."

With just 10 games remaining on the regular season schedule leading into the conference tournament, the ladies now more than ever are looking to build momentum and run, not limp, into the big show.

"We just need to stay focused, because we know we have the talent and we have the work ethic," Beck said.

Megyesi agreed saying, "We need to have the mindset of what it takes to play every game, so that we are mentally prepared."

Women's basketball hit the hardwood next at Robert Morris Jan. 20 and come home Jan. 22 for a match-up with St. Xavier at 1 p.m.

Intramurals Perk Up Spring Semester

Jacob Arredondo
Staff Writer

Just like that, the amazing, month-long period so lovingly referred to as “Winter Break” is over.

Students are back in class for endless hours learning topics concerning their respective majors. It really does not seem like there will be much exciting happening in the next few months.

Not to fear, a big spring intramural season is right around the corner, just in time to save students from long hours in the classroom.

Some sports to consider for this spring include the always popular 5-on-5 basketball league, soccer, volleyball, bowling, and the newly added powder puff football league.

In addition to these cornerstone sports are various other end makers, ranging

from Texas hold ‘em’ poker tournaments, ping-pong and even Quidditch, the game played in the Harry Potter series.

“Basketball is always our biggest turnout, and bowling fills up usually within a week. It got so busy that we now have lanes reserved two nights a week,” Recreational Sports and Camps Director Matt Dudzik said. As far as the powder puff football league addition goes, Dudzik admitted it took a bit of persuasion for its formation.

“It was a request from a couple of females I ran into. A couple of basketball players brought it up to me and we decided to start it,” he said.

Students are taking the possibility as a chance to have some fun.

“I’m always excited for football and basketball, but would like to give something out of the box a go,” senior Mike Calarie said. “You know, diversify my



Chronicle photo by Morgan Walker

Bill Gnerlich, sophomore CIT major, participating during last years spring intramurals at Plaza Lanes, Highland IN.

intramural talents, maybe make some new friends.”

The intramurals this spring provide a promising outlook for the upcoming semester, with big fun in the cards for the upcoming months.

For information regarding spring intramurals, contact Matt Dudzik at Dudzik@calumet.purdue.edu

Patton takes a lead role

Julie Sipek
Sports Reporter



Forward Mike Patton of the men's basketball team ended 2010 with a

bang by giving several stellar performances leading him to the title of CCAC Player of the Week by CCAC Weekly.

Patton, a senior majoring in accounting, received the award for his contributions in the double-overtime victory against Alma College on Dec. 29 as well as the near upset of NCAA Division I foe Western Illinois University (WIU) on Jan. 1.

The senior forward sunk the tying shot in the first period of overtime against Alma and gave his team another chance at the win. He

also had a total of 14 points and 19 rebounds that game. He then tallied 10 points and 5 rebounds against WIU.

“It’s a nice honor,” Patton said. “I just wish it was a team award because I didn’t do it alone.”

While he may not want to take the credit, Coach Dan Voudrie and CCAC felt he deserved the recognition.

“The award was in recognition of his play that week which was very efficient and productive,” Voudrie said. “Mike contributes so many positive things to this team and has continued to work extremely hard every day.”

Patton’s work ethic began at an early age, starting to play basketball at age six. He admitted he was always a huge Michael Jordan fan, which his mother took notice of and signed him up to play for a team at the Hammond YMCA. He fell in love with the game and has been playing ever since.

“I love the way Jordan played the game and my dad always took me to the park and played one-on-one with me,” he said.

The Player of the Week award Patton received earlier this month was not his first. He received another his junior year after a 22 point, 21 rebound game against Trinity International University, only one rebound short from tying a PUC record.

Patton is grateful, but would like the focus to be on the team, not him, for the remainder of the season.

“Our goal is to look forward and get better every day and I think we will do that,” he said.

Spring 2011

Intramural Schedule

Dodgeball

Dates: Jan. 27th/31st Feb. 3rd
Time: 7:30-9pm
Location: PUC Gym

Air Hockey Tournament

Date: February 1st
Time: 7pm (Warm-ups at 6:30pm)
Location: FRC Building (Across from racquetball courts)

4 on 4 Soccer

Season Starts: February 7th
All games will be played on Monday nights in the gym
Entry Deadline: February 3rd
All participants must have a fitness center membership

4 on 4 Bowling

Season Starts: February 8th/9th
All games will be played @ Plaza Lanes in Highland
Games will be played on Tuesday & Wednesday nights
Entry Fee: \$20 per team (Covers the entire 10 week season)
Entry Deadline: Feb. 4th (We are only taking 16 teams)

Ping Pong Tournaments

February 10th (1 on 1 Tournament) @ 6:30pm
February 17th (2 on 2 Tournament) @ 6:30pm
Both Tournaments will take place in the PUC Gym

5 on 5 Basketball

Season Starts: February 13th
All games to be played on Sunday in the gym
Captains Call-out Meeting to be held 2/1/11 @ 6pm in FRC 129
Entry Deadline: February 9th

3 Point/Free-Throw Contest

Date: February 15th @ 6:30pm
Location: PUC Gym
You can do one or both contests

5 on 5 Wiffleball

Season Starts: February 23rd
All games to be played on Wednesday night in the PUC Gym
Entry Deadline: February 21st

Texas Hold ‘em Tournament

Dates: Feb. 24th/March 8th/22nd & April 11th & 13th
You can only play in one tournament
Top two in each tournament will advance to the championship to be held May 6th
There is no \$ involved/All games to be played at 6:30pm in FRC 132

Open Play Badminton

Dates: Feb. 25th/ March 4th & 11th
Time: 6pm-7:30pm
All Open play nights are Friday in the gym

6 on 6 Volleyball

Season Starts: March 3rd
All games to be played on Thursday night in the PUC Gym
Entry Deadline: February 28th

(New) Powder Puff Football

Season Starts: April 5th
All games to be played on Tuesday nights in the PUC Gym
Entry Deadline: April 3rd
This league is open to all female PUC Students & Staff

Open Play Ultimate Frisbee

Dates: April 7th/14th/21st
Location: Grassy area Between Gyte & Lawshe
Time: 6:30pm

Open Play Kickball

Dates: April 20th & 27th
Location: Grassy area Between Gyte & Lawshe
Time: 6:30pm

Open Play Mushball

Dates: April 25th & May 2nd
Location: Grassy area Between Gyte & Lawshe
Time: 6:30pm

Also coming

Racquetball/NCAA Pick ‘em Contest

Chronicle file photo

Men's Basketball

Rey Perez
Sports Editor

There have been flashes of greatness, spots of darkness and tough breaks this consistently inconsistent season for the PUC men's basketball team.

As winter break dawned on the rest of campus and the weather turned to a deep freeze, men's basketball began to heat up.

Since Dec. 11, the men have rattled off a record of 4-3, their best stretch of the 2010-11 campaign.

They began to hit their stride against Olivet Nazarene, where they started what would become a stretch of four straight wins against tough opponents: Roosevelt, Alma and CCAC foe Cardinal Stritch.

A loss to Trinity International on Jan. 8 ended the four game run, followed by tough losses to Trinity Christian and Calumet St. Joseph on their home floor.

"I think right now we really boosted some confidence coming out of the New Year with those four straight wins," Coach Dan Voudrie said.



Senior Neal Hudson ranks near the top in both points and rebounds for the Peregrines in the 2010-11 season.

Chronicle file photo

See Men's page 10

Everyone needs a little luck



Rey Perez
Sports Editor

Coming into the 2010-11 season, no one, including this writer, had very high expectations for our beloved Chicago Bears. With a shotty offensive line protecting an inconsistently brilliant quarterback and an unproven receiving core, along with a defense that had an off year in 2009, the Bears looked no better than an 8-8 football team in the powerful NFC North.

Without any early draft picks and a coach on the hot seat, the season looked to be a wash. But, so far in the 2010-11 season, it has been anything but.

Now, many Bears haters will be the first to point out the "lucky" streak the Bears seem to be riding this season.

Starting even the first day of the season, the Bears left the field with a win on a rule interpretation that seemed unreasonable. A week 11 victory over the Dolphins featured Tyler Thigpen taking snaps for Miami, a third-string quarterback.

Who is Drew Stanton? A third-string quarterback whom the Bears took down in week 13 against the Lions.

During week 15, the Bears defense stood across from Joe

Webb, the rookie quarterback of the Minnesota Vikings who was originally drafted to play wide receiver.

These scenarios, all combined with the fact the Bears faced a very small amount of serious injuries the entire season, may lead you to believe the coaches, players, trainers, fans, beer vendors and even ball boys rubbed their lucky rabbits foot, hung their horseshoes and kissed their four-leaf clovers all season long.

Sure, many cards fell the right way for the Bears this season, but had they lost any of those games, Bears nation would have been in turmoil. They took care of business when they were supposed to, like all good teams do.

It would have been easy for the Bears to have a lax, nonchalant attitude going into these "lucky" scenarios, but they did not. They played every game like it was as important as their last, and have put themselves in a great position to make another magical run to the Super Bowl.

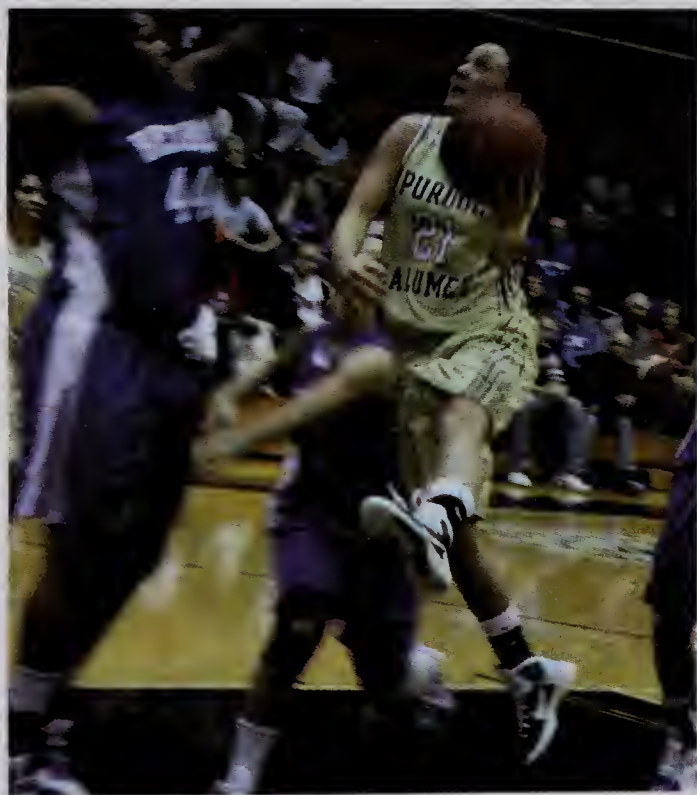
To put a cherry on top of the lucky sundae the Bears have been eating all season long, the lowly Seahawks surprised the NFL by beating the Super Bowl champ Saints, and the division rival Packers took care of business against the powerful Eagles, all to set up a Bears vs. Seahawks match-up for a chance at a Super Bowl berth.

Of course, the Bears beat up on the lowly Seahawks to cruise into the NFC Championship game.

You say lucky? I say sure, but every team needs a little luck this time of year.

I for one will keep riding the luck train and holding my clover tight on game day. GO BEARS!!

Women's Basketball



Chronicle photo by Lulu Zhao

Junior Stephaine Beck is another reason the Lady Peregrines have high hopes heading to the home stretch.

Rey Perez
Sports Editor

In a season where the national tournament is the one and only goal, the ladies of the women's basketball team continue to

push themselves to tread water in the conference, staying above .500 after a quick 4-0 start to the season.

During the long semester break, the women continued their hard work on the hardwood to a 5-4 clip from Dec. 11 through Jan. 15. This included big wins against conference opponents Holy Cross, Trinity International and Trinity Christian, with a 3-3 conference record so far.

Having begun the season at such a fast pace, the women have done well to calm themselves after a tough mid-season stretch where they lost four of five games and saw their polished start come back to earth.

"Honestly we have had our ups and downs, but I think we're refocused now knowing that we can beat quality teams," junior Guard Stephaine Beck said. "If we play a full 40 minutes, it shows."

"It peaks and valleys through the season, and we were on a valley there for a while," Coach Tom Megyesi said.

Playing consistent basketball throughout the season has been no problem for Merrillville product and sophomore guard

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